

GOVERNOR'S  
REASONS  
FOR VETO:

"The definition of 'motor vehicle' fatally conflicts with other definitions found in SB 1141 passed by this Legislature."

SPONSOR'S  
VIEW:

Rep. Hackney's office said he did not object to the veto because the change in the definition of a motor vehicle that would have been made by HB 1980 is incorporated in SB 1141, by Sen. Brown. The purpose of HB 1980 was to put all-terrain vehicle dealers under the regulatory jurisdiction of the Motor Vehicle Commission, as a consumer-protection measure. This purpose is served by SB 1141.

NOTES:

SB 1141, the car "lemon" law relating to auto dealers and warranties, expands the definition of a motor vehicle to include, in addition to all-terrain vehicles, engines, transmissions, and rear axles for vehicles weighing more than 16,000 pounds, whether or not attached to a vehicle chassis.

The HSG analysis of SB 1141 appeared in the May 16 Daily Floor Report.

Legal excellence fund for Attorney General  
(HB 2181, by Colbert)

DIGEST:

The bill would have created a "legal excellence fund" for the office of the Attorney General in the state Treasury, for deposit of private gifts, grants, and donations to supplement appropriations. Any supplemental amount from the legal excellence fund used for compensation of the Attorney General or his assistants would have to be appropriated by the Legislature.

GOVERNOR'S  
REASON  
FOR VETO:

The appropriations process is the appropriate method for funding the Attorney General's office.

SPONSOR'S  
VIEW:

Rep. Colbert said the bill would have allowed improvement of the quality and efficiency of the Attorney General's office while saving the state money. The Attorney General should be competitive in hiring, just like universities that receive private endowments to hire top professors. Too frequently young lawyers will receive training and expertise in the AG's office, leave to work in private practice, then return to work for the state as expensive outside consultants on a pending case. While there could be some potential for conflict of interest if an attorney in the AG's office went to work for the same firm that had previously provided his salary supplement, restricting employment by AG staffers after they leave state service would lower the quality of those lawyers willing to work for the state.

Charitable trust court cost recovery  
(HB 2258, by G. Hill)

DIGEST:

The bill would have allowed the Attorney General to recover court costs and reasonable attorney's fees if successful in a suit against a trustee of a charitable trust for breach of fiduciary duties. All such suits would have been filed in Travis County.

GOVERNOR'S  
REASONS  
FOR VETO:

The Senate companion bill to HB 2258, SB 1184, by Caperton, passed the Legislature before the House bill. Gov. White signed SB 1184.

SPONSOR'S  
VIEW:

Rep. Hill said the important point was to pass the bill, and that was accomplished.